International charter air services from Madurai

196. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to permit international charter flights to and from Madurai like Goa and Kerala during tourist season considering Madurai is a tourist destination;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Government has allowed operation of tourist charter flights to/from any airport in India without any limitation on frequency of flights or size of the aircraft, provided Customs and Immigration facilities are available. However, these facilities would be made available on either ad-hoc or seasonal basis by Customs and Immigration Authorities on the request of the tour operator. So far, the Government has not received any request from the tour operators for operation of such charter flights to/from Madurai.

(c) Does not arise.

New-flying institutes

197. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to upgrade the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Academy in Rai Bareli, Uttar Pradesh in the near future;

(b) if so, the details in this regard indicating the additional investment proposed to be made and the likely increase in the output of pilots from there;

(c) whether Government also propose to set up a new flying institute near Nagpur in Maharashtra;

(d) if so, whether the new institute would be entirely owned by Government or would be a joint venture with private participation; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.